

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 225283
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUTADR/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 7517

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225283

FOLLOWING REPEAT SUBA 1662, ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN BEIRUT
TEL AVIV USDAO WELLINGTON 04 SEP:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 1662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORT, UNSC, NP, UN, FJ

SUBJECT: UNIFIL PERFORMANCE AND RENEWAL

REF: A) STATE 220600, B) JERUSALEM 2413

1. EMBOFF ON 4 SEPT SHARED CONTENTS REF A WITH RFMF COMMANDER
COL. PAUL MANUELI AND GAVE MANUELI COPY OF UN ANNOUNCEMENT
ON UNIFIL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN SOUTY LEBANON (REF B).

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2. MANUELI SAID THAT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, RFMF WAS OPER-
ATING ON ASSUMPTION UNIFIL MANDATE WOULD BE RENEWED. HE NOTED
IN THIS REGARD THAT FIJI WAS FOLLOWING THE FRENCH LEAD. "AS
MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE FRENCH SHOULD HAVE SOME
IDEA WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED, AND SINCE THEY ARE PLANNING A
TROOP ROTATION, SO ARE WE".

3. MANUELI FELT UN HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO MAINTAIN UNIFIL IF THERE WAS ANY HOPE AGAINST FURTHER DETERIORATION IN SITUATION. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT EARLY RESTORATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY IN SOUTH WAS POSSIBLE OR THAT UNIFIL WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO FULFILL THE THIRD OBJECTIVE OF ITS MANDATE. WITHDRAWAL OF UNIFIL WOULD, HOWEVER, INVITE TROUBLE, EVEN THE POSSIBLE REINTRODUCTION OF ISRAELI FORCES.

4. MANUELI WILL LEAVE SUVA 5 SEPT. FOR TRIP THROUGH NEW YORK AND LONDON TO LEBANON. IN NEW YORK HE PLANS TO MEET WITH UN OFFICIALS ABOUT OPERATION OF UNIFIL (LOGISTICS SUPPORT, ETC). IN LONDON HE HOPES TO ARRANGE PURCHASE OF MACHINE GUNS (NOT WEAPON PRODUCED IN BELGIUM) FOR FIJI CONTINGENT IN LEBANON. IF HE IS UNABLE TO MAKE ARMS PURCHASE IN LONDON, MANUELI SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO EUROPE AFTER VISITING LEBANON IN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN GUNS FROM BELGIANS.

5. MANUELI SAID HE APPRECIATED US SHARING ITS ASSESSMENT OF UNIFIL WITH RFMF AND ASKED THAT IN HIS ABSENCE, EMBASSY PASS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO HIS DEPUTY. CONDON UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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